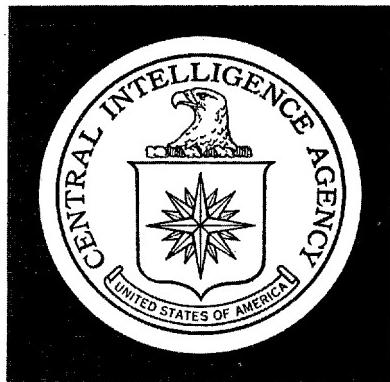


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CONTENTS

USSR-Somalia: A Soviet delegation is discussing economic aid with the new government. (Page 1)

Ghana: The expulsion of foreign Africans will affect relations with neighboring countries. (Page 2)

Ireland: The situation in Ulster has caused some dissension in the Irish Republic cabinet. (Page 3)

UN: The General Assembly may look into review of the UN charter. (Page 4)

United Kingdom: Arms to Lagos policy (Page 5)

West Germany - Poland: Economic talks (Page 5)

EURATOM: Research program (Page 6)

Approved For Release 2003/06/11 : CIA-RDP79T00975A015100090001-4

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USSR-Somalia: A Soviet delegation is in Mogadiscio discussing economic aid with the new government.

The 14-member delegation, headed by the chief of the African Department of the State Foreign Economic Relations Committee, arrived less than two months after the coup. The group probably will discuss new aid projects as well as the reactivation of old projects and the rescheduling of outstanding indebtedness.

Moscow already had agreed to supply about \$4 million in new aid to reopen two agricultural projects, [redacted] These projects were completed under a 1961 aid agreement, but a number of other projects under that agreement still are not finished. Almost half of the \$63 million in Soviet credits remains unspent.

Somalia has had difficulty in repaying its loans from the USSR. In August 1968, the Soviets agreed that payments due at the end of 1970 would not begin until January 1972. Further efforts probably will be made now by the new government to obtain even more favorable repayment terms. [redacted]

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Ghana: The government's expulsion of foreign Africans casts a pall on its policy of improving relations with its neighbors.

Pressed by a high level of unemployment and a stagnant economy, the government last month ordered all foreigners either to obtain resident permits or leave the country within two weeks. There are several hundred thousand foreigners in Ghana, mainly from Upper Volta, Nigeria, Togo, Dahomey, and Niger.

Neighboring governments thus far have not reacted strongly to Ghana's action, although some have asked the Ghanaians to go slow in implementing the expulsion order. These requests have had little effect. Since early this month the police have been forcing thousands across the borders every day. Already some 50,000 refugees have become stranded in Togo and Dahomey, causing relief problems there. The influx of refugees into the poorer states, such as Niger and Upper Volta, will present these countries with serious economic difficulties.

The expulsions are popular with Ghanaians who have to compete with foreign workers and shopkeepers, but they will have harmful effects on Ghana's relations with its neighbors. This policy creates doubt about the chances for success of Prime Minister Busia's policy announced at the beginning of his administration last October that priority consideration would be given to expanding ties and extending cooperation with Ghana's neighbors.

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Ireland: The situation in Ulster has caused some dissension in the Irish Republic cabinet.

Speaking at a meeting in the County of Donegal on 8 December, Neil Blaney, the minister of agriculture and fisheries, noted that Ireland's governing Fianna Fail Party had never ruled out the use of force to end the partition of Ireland if "circumstances demanded it." Donegal borders on West Ulster, and Blaney's remarks were probably aimed at bolstering the Catholics in nearby Londonderry, one of the principal centers of Catholic protest demonstrations in Northern Ireland over the past year.

Irish Premier Lynch yesterday disagreed with Blaney and stated that his government had no intention of ending the partition by force. Lynch is probably wary of remarks such as Blaney's, which might further arouse the right-wing Protestants in Ulster, particularly when there is a possibility that Catholic-Protestant clashes will be renewed in the near future.

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UN: Two draft resolutions looking toward possible review of the UN charter have recently been initiated.

Colombia, with Chilean co-sponsorship, has proposed putting charter review on the agenda of the 1970 session of the Assembly. Charter review has been a favorite project of Colombian President Lleras, who decided to proceed with this initiative without wide support in the Latin American group. He may be attempting to enhance his own image as an international statesman before his term of office ends next year.

With US encouragement, Ghana is informally circulating a draft resolution designed to avoid forcing consideration of charter review by the 1970 Assembly. The Ghanaian text would have Secretary General Thant solicit suggestions on possible amendments to the charter and incorporate such suggestions in a report to the committee preparing for next year's 25th anniversary of the UN. This committee would then "report, as appropriate," to the 1970 Assembly on suggestions made regarding charter amendments. The Soviets, who have traditionally opposed review of the charter, are indicating a preference for the Ghanaian approach.

Charter review has been a dormant subject in recent years, but concern over the effectiveness of the UN and the current mood of resentment at the role of the big powers could stimulate new support for amending the charter. The 1955 Assembly decided in principle that a charter revision conference should be held "at an appropriate time" and when "auspicious international circumstances" pertained. Since that date, the subject has been considered in increasingly brief and perfunctory periodic meetings of the General Assembly sitting as a committee of the whole.

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NOTES

[United Kingdom: Prime Minister Wilson's adept handling of a strong parliamentary opposition to his policy of supplying arms to the federal government of Nigeria resulted in a House of Commons endorsement of that policy yesterday by a vote of 254 to 84. The high number of opposition votes makes it clear, however, that many members remain unsatisfied with Britain's position and can be counted on to continue to badger the Wilson government on this thorny issue, particularly during the national election campaign expected next year.]

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[West Germany - Poland: The economic talks, in recess since October, resume today, a month earlier than expected, in response to Polish wishes. Early agreement is not in prospect, however, because neither side has worked out its position in sufficient detail. According to a foreign ministry official, the outcome of Bonn's deliberations is likely to be an offer of credits "large enough" to be "interesting" to the Poles, but nowhere near the "maximum" one billion dollar figure informally hinted at by Warsaw. The anticipated political talks between the two countries, proposed in a Bonn note to Warsaw late last month, are expected to begin soon.]

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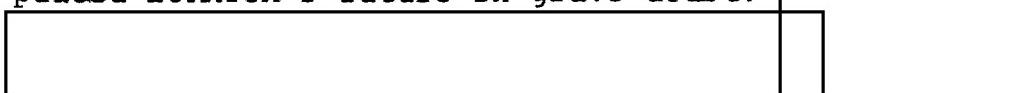
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EURATOM: The recent decision of the Council of the European Communities to extend the 1969 research program of the European Atomic Energy Community (EURATOM) for a maximum period of two years has given that organization a new chance to solve its long-range problems. During the interim, work will continue on a research plan to cover several years, and the Council hopes to reach agreement on this "pluri-annual" program by the end of 1970. The members who attended the recent Council meeting said that the promising results of the summit meeting in The Hague "inspired" them to break the deadlock which had placed EURATOM's future in grave doubt.

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